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Imagery analysis report

New Possible CSS-3 Rollout SSM Launch Site Construction, China (S)

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NEW POSSIBLE CSS-3 ROLLOUT SSM LAUNCH SITE CONSTRUCTION, CHINA (S)

INTRODUCTION

1. (TSR) Three possible CSS-3 rollout SSM launch sites were newly identified on [redacted] in the vicinity of the Sundian SSM Launch Complex [redacted] in central China (Figure 1). This complex includes one completed CSS-3 silo, one CSS-3 silo that was only partially completed and is probably abandoned, and the three new possible rollout SSM launch sites under construction (Figure 2). The three possible launch sites are all located near SSM-related facilities. Each launch site has a minimum of three caves. The activity observed at the possible launch sites consisted of:

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- Excavation of caves into steep-walled valleys,
- Extensive camouflage activity at one of the three sites, and
- Connection of all sites to the complex buried cable network.

The construction activity is similar to the construction activity previously observed at CSS-3 rollout SSM launch sites in western China and at Tongdao Possible Roll-out SSM Launch Site [redacted] in central China. Construction on the possible launch sites at Sundian began between July 1979, when construction was not underway, and October 1980, when cave excavations were observed. Further definition of the status of these possible launch sites is dependent upon firm identification of missile-related construction and/or equipment at the sites.

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DESCRIPTION

Sundian Possible Rollout SSM Launch Site A

2. (TSR) Sundian Possible Rollout SSM Launch Site A [redacted] is being constructed in the eastern end of a steep-walled mountain valley (Figure 3). Sundian Possible Propellant Storage Area [redacted] is at the western end of the same valley and is probably providing construction support to the site. Possible Launch Site A consists of three caves being excavated into the valley walls. [redacted]

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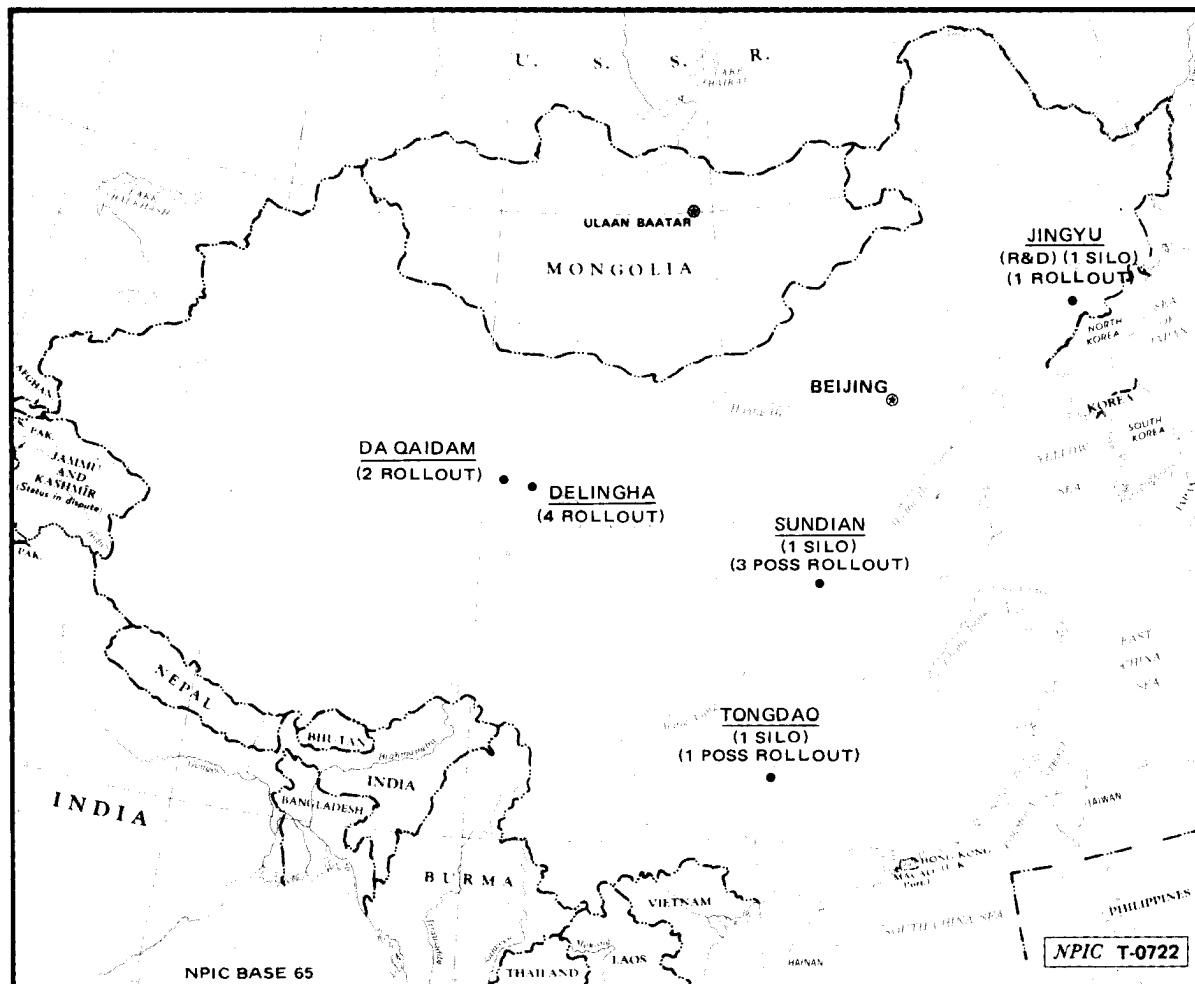
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Sundian Possible Rollout SSM Launch Site B

3. (TSR) Sundian Poss Rollout SSM Launch Site B [] is on the east side of a steep-walled valley, and is composed of three large caves being excavated into the valley walls (Figure 6). Sundian Cave Storage Facility/SSM [] is in the same valley, north and south of the possible launch site. No structures, aprons, or camouflage has been observed at the three caves. The nearby storage facility has two existing caves with aprons and rails/wheelguides in front of the cave entrances.

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**FIGURE 1. CSS-3 LAUNCH SITE LOCATIONS, CHINA**

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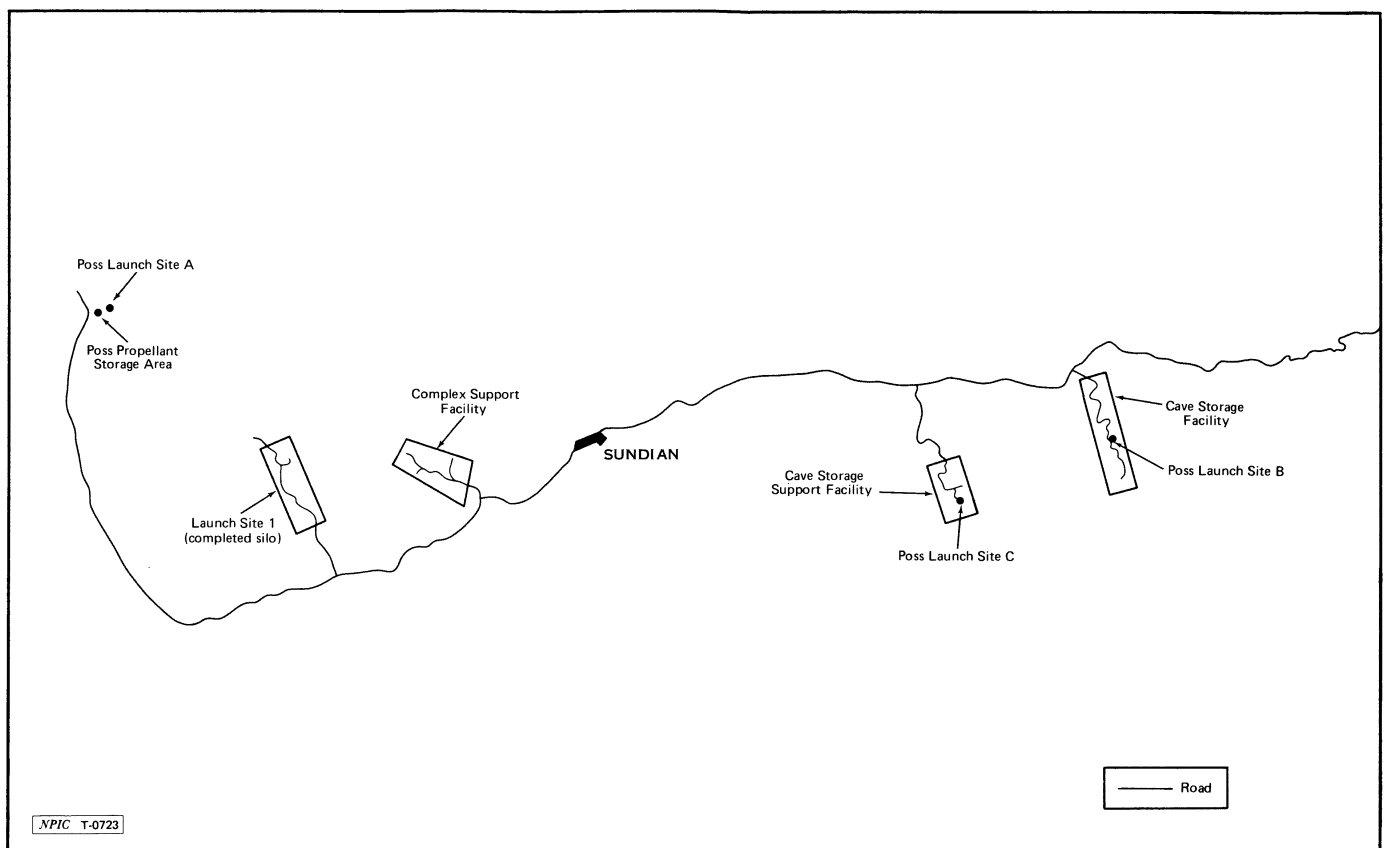


FIGURE 2. SUNDIAN SSM COMPLEX, CHINA

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4. (TSR) Sundian Possible Rollout SSM Launch Site C [] is on the south side of a steep-walled valley and consists of two large new caves being excavated into the valley wall and two existing caves (Figure 7). On imagery of [] a concrete structure was under construction at the southern cave and arched roof segments were on the ground nearby. The two existing caves were previously associated with Sundian Cave Storage Support Facility/SSM (BE [] which is at the valley entrance. The cave storage support facility was previously designated as Sundian SSM Launch Site 2, a CSS-3 elevate-to-launch silo which was under construction during the early and mid-1970s. Work was stopped on the launch site while construction was in a midstage and the construction support area was razed. The two existing caves were excavated while the silo was under construction and are part of the Cave Storage Support Facility. The uncompleted silo coring is approximately 500 meters north of the new cave construction. Twenty-eight new support buildings were constructed in the cave storage support facility between July 1979 and October 1980, probably to provide support for the cave excavation activity at the possible launch site.

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IMAGERY ANALYST'S COMMENTS

5. (S/D) There are several positive indicators that the cave construction activity observed may be for CSS-3 rollout launch sites. The relative placement and the number of caves within Launch Sites A and B are similar to those at the rollout launch sites now nearly complete in western China. The caves at Launch Site C could support rollout launch site operations, even though the relative placement of the caves is not identical to that at existing sites. The number of launch sites at the complex, including the completed silo, would be four. CSS-3 launch sites appear to be deployed in sets of two at other deployed locations. The camouflage activity at Launch Site A is similar to the camouflage activity observed at the Tongdao Possible Rollout Launch Site. Based on the two observations of camouflage activity at possible rollout launch sites under construction, camouflage appears to be deployed at the beginning of construction of CSS-3 launch site signatures. Construction of these three possible CSS-3 launch sites and the Tongdao Possible Launch Site in central China may represent an attempt to provide more geographically secure launch locations or may indicate a change in the targets against which the CSS-3 may be used.

REFERENCES**IMAGERY**

(S/D) All applicable imagery acquired between [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to the Missile, Air, and Electronics Section, Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] or green []

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